

REMARKS

The Examiner has stated that Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No, 5,397,189 to Minogue.

It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims contain at least one limitation that is not present in the cited art nor is the feature shown the same as the cited art.

Fig. 2 of Minogue shows that the keys within each of said rows are placed at increasing heights toward the center of said row, so that the central keys 16 are elevated above the level of the outer keys 15. It can be seen that the rows farther from the user edge 12 are placed at increasing heights above the rows closer to user. It is clear that Minogue merely teaches the keys of the keyboard being positioned in different curves and these curves are closed to central keys 16. However, as compared with the amended claims, claim 1 recites that the keys are "arranged to form a plurality of parallel arc key rows having a same concentric center lying at the center line." As stated above, Minogue lacks at least this claimed feature.

U.S. Patent No. 6,212,066 to Fetterman, discloses an improved housing for computing devices that can be opened or removed to gain easy access to internal components of a computing device. The movable key board can be secured to the computer device using a keyboard securing system. However, the present invention installs an ergonomic keyboard on a portable computer wherein the QWER keys are arranged on several parallel arc key rows having a same concentric center. One advantage of using such structure over Minogue and Fetterman is that the size of the keyboard will not be enlarged accordingly.

Applicant respectfully submits that even if a person of ordinary skill in the art makes the combination suggested by the Examiner, the result is not the claimed invention.

For at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant's amended claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Fetterman in view of Minogue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Amended Claims w/ Markings

MDB/BCM

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

1. (Once amended) An ergonomic keyboard, comprising:
 - a base; and
 - a plurality of keys, located evenly on the base about a center line of the base and further arranged to form a plurality of parallel arc key rows having a same concentric center lying at the center line.
8. (Once amended) A notebook computer, comprising:
 - a host unit for storage and for processing digital data;
 - a display unit for displaying said digital data; and
 - an ergonomic keyboard, fixed on the host unit, [further comprising: a base; and]
wherein a plurality of keys[,] are located evenly on the base about a center line of the base and further arranged to form a plurality of parallel arc key rows having a same concentric center lying at the center line.